

THE MORNING NEWS

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Aruba celebrates its National Day, with pomp and festivities



Arrival of Governors



Arrival of PM Mike Eman and Spouse Doina Eman

Aruba's National Day, March 18, also called Himno y Bandera, (Anthem and Flag Day) is a time of celebration, offset by reflection upon what it means to be Aruban, and how the people can best serve their island nation to progress and prosper.

This is exemplified by the rather solemn official observance on L.G. Smith Boulevard in the morning, which ended with festive entertainment and a parade by national agencies, sports groups and scout troops.

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Governor of Curaçao Lucille George-Wout with Governor Refunol and PM Eman

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Putin defies West with Crimea 'land grab'

MOSCOW (AFP) - President Vladimir Putin yesterday signed a treaty claiming the Black Sea region of Crimea as Russian territory as the Ukraine warned the showdown had entered a "military stage" after soldiers were killed on both sides.

The treaty signing was conducted at lightning speed in the Kremlin in a defiant expansion of Russia's post-Soviet borders that has plunged relations with the West to a new post-Cold War low.

The move, less than three weeks after pro-Moscow troops first seized control of the strategic peninsula, triggered furious condemnation from Western leaders.

The Ukraine said one of its soldiers had been killed in Crimea yesterday, branding the first confirmed fatality on the peninsula a "war crime", and announced that its forces would be allowed to fire weapons in self defence.

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Aruba celebrates its National Day, with pomp and festivities

Continued from page 1



Welcome to the Ministers



Prime Minister Eman



Presenting the flag to island and visiting dignitaries



Raising the flag

Governor of Aruba, Fredis Re-funjol, Prime Minister Mike Eman, ministers and parliamentarians had the honor of welcoming a number of dignitaries from the other Dutch Caribbean islands, such as the Governor of Curaçao, the Honorable Lucille George-Wout, and from Holland, Director General of Kingdom Affairs, Richard van Zwol, along with

the many citizens of Aruba who came to observe the occasion. The speakers during the morning event were, as tradition demands, Prime Minister Mike Eman, and this year, Minister of Tourism, Transport, Primary Sector and Culture, Otmar Oduber. Minister Oduber recited a brief history of key figures in

Aruba's struggle for autonomy within the Dutch Kingdom. He pointed to the examples and sacrifices of the the PM's grandfather, Henny Eman, founder of their political party, AVP, who along with Juan Irausquin, initiated the movement for Aruban Independence, as well as Eman's son, Albert, who originally presented the petition on March

18, 1948 in Holland. Those 1948 negotiations resulted in the formation of the Netherlands Antilles in 1951, but Aruban Independence, Status Aparte, would not become a reality until 1986. Gilberto Francois "Betico" Croes, founder of the MEP political party, took up the baton to continue to crusade for Aruban autonomy. It was under his leadership that Aruba decided upon its own national anthem and flag, which were unveiled on March 18, 1976. The point to Minister Oduber's discourse, repeated and enlarged upon by Prime Minister Eman, was that Aruba's National Day transcends any political leanings or differences. It is a time for all to unite under the island's flag and sing its anthem; to celebrate the island's prosperity and the achievements of its people. The Prime Minister's impassioned address stirred the audience. His plea for all to look to the future and instill in the next generation the same pride in their Aruban identity and love of country, brought a

wave of applause. Following the formal speeches, those attending were treated to a variety of entertainment, including native dancers, popular island singers, and this year's winner of the National Patriotic Poetry Contest, Frank Croes, reciting his poignant piece, "Tera Seco, Tera Cora," (Dry Land, Red Land.) See more fotos on page 3



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Aruba celebrates its National Day, with pomp and festivities



Minister Oduber



Angelo Koolman sings



Frank Croes recites his winning poem Terra Seco Terra Cor



Minister of Finance and Minister of Health with spouses



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Musical tribute and treat by Nico Connor

ORANJESTAD-- A musical treat and tribute to our cultura will be available on the local market as of Monday, March 17th. This is a production of "Aruba's Sweet Pan Man," Nico Connor. This is the second volume of "Crioyo" pan music.

Nico's CD is being launched in conjunction with Aruba's Hymn and Anthem celebrations. The new CD is dedicated to pioneer Alphonso "Buchi" Boekhoudt. Boekhoudt has worked with Connor and has even given lessons on the Musical Organ (Caha di Orgel).

Boekhoudt expressed... "it is an honor for me to have worked with Nico in the production of this CD."

The CD contains the following pieces by different artists:

1. Padu - Alphonso Boekhoudt
2. Den Mi Cultura tin un cos - Robert Maduro
3. Mor pa bo patria - C-zar Olarte
4. Si Machi kier - Cecil Growel
5. Dama Antnona - Francisco De Paula Aguirre and Leoncio
6. Pais - Jossy Brokke
7. Ki mi tin - Vincente Kelly



8. Bernadina - Alphonso Boekhoudt

9. Atardi - Rudi Plaate

10. En Skotjie - Vincente Kelly

11. Ken nos ta - Gus Oduber-Hilward Croes

This CD is definitely going to be a classic with its 11 songs of local musicians who have already had much success. Connor is now immortalizing sweet pan music in his "Crioyo Volume 2." The new CD is an exceptional contribution to our culture.

For more information contact them via email at sweetpanmusic@hotmail.com or at sweetpanmusic.nc@gmail.com. You can also call Tel. 732-7400 / 742-7400.



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Aruba's National Day: Let the festivities begin!



Showing his pride in his flag.

ORANJESTAD -- Arubans thoroughly enjoy their national holidays, and consider them a time for all the community to share and enjoy the talents and traditions that make the day noteworthy. They enjoy their festivities so much, they often start well in advance of the actual day.

Aruba's National Day, March 18, is preceded by days of patriotic song fests, with the winners in three age categories performing on the eve of Himno y Bandera (Anthem and Flag Day) in the cultural show and street fair conducted in the Plaza G.F. "Betico" Croes, located directly behind the Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad.

Visitors are warmly welcomed to enjoy a sampling of modern and folkloric dancing, contemporary and traditional music, as well as to sample a real taste of island cooking at several of the booths arranged around the plaza. Criollo cooking is the usual fare, with offerings such as pastechis, regional sweets, and Oester Soup abundant. Even Aruba's Minister of



Minister Oduber with devoted tourists Rich and Marie Szempruch



cross stitched magnets and jewelry

Tourism, Transport, Primary Secotr and Culture, Otmar Oduber, could hardly wait for a hearty bowl of this favorite treat.

A lengthy and free program of entertainment opened with contemporary group Popcorn Dancers welcoming the audience with a number choreographed to the popular song "My Island Aruba." Visitors unacquainted with it can hear it in the background of commercials and infomercials enticing vacationers to our shores.

Other noted entertainers included popular balladeer Ed-jean Semaleer, who made the song "My Island Aruba," popular and his sister Jeanedy, singing her winning song from the annual patriotic song contest.

As always, it was a congenial evening when islanders gather to wish each other "pa-bien" for their independence day, as well as welcome island visitors with an authentic sample of Aruban food, handcrafts and hospitality.



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A family pastime is making flag based knick knacks

Blue Residences opens its doors in soft opening



PALM BEACH --Between Palm and Eagle Beach many people still remember a Sea park at the end of the eighties and a supermarket that was temporary open here. On exactly this location three Towers have steadily been under development and one building, the Indigo Tower, the first of the three towers at Blue Residences received the first guests in Gabriella Powell and Brad Cumberbatch. Property Manager Aisa van der Biezen and Front Office and Reservations

Manager, Emile Kock welcomed the couple while General Manager Jan van Nes accompanied the first guests to their suite where they were surprised with an upgrade from a deluxe ocean view to a two bedroom condo. The soft opening of this condo-hotel was blessed with their comments on Facebook which were:

"Absolutely amazing. The room is fantastic, and the staff are all incredibly nice and 100% accommodating. When we come back, we will most

certainly stay here again!"

Blue Residences' three Towers are now sold for 80% and a Grand Opening is expected in July with the opening of the Kitchen Table Restaurant, El Mirador and the Frangipani Bar and Patio. "We have chosen for a soft opening 5 condos at the time making sure that each guest experience is a memorable one and we all take pride of going the extra mile comes General manager Jan van Nes. Guest experiences at the opening of hotel are not always swift around the world and we are not happy unless the guest that checks out leaves making his or her reservation for their next visit". Our entrance is ready now and we are now fully accessible from the J.E. Irausquin boulevard adds Aisa the property manager.

Blue Residences is represented by Icon Hotel Marketing Inc. in Newport, USA and KTCpr agency in New York and more information can be found on www.bluearuba.com and www.ownbluearuba.com

Loyal visitors honored at the Aruba Divi Phoenix Resort



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal friends as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Ronald and Mrs. Marilyn Krueger, Mr. Tod and Mrs. Randi Kassay, Mr. Bobby and Mrs. Denise Blandi and Mr. David Mennie. All the honorees are loyal members of the Divi Phoenix and they love Aruba very much for its friendly people, nice climate, beautiful beaches, diverse restaurants and great casinos. Aruba feels like a second home, the people are like a family to them and the Divi Phoenix is their home away from home. The certificates were presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Mrs. Avril, Mr. Pedro Vargas and GM Gerritt Griffith of the Divi Phoenix.



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Team Aruba helps PDRA make history with first event

UNION, South Carolina -- The Professional Drag Racers Association is quickly approaching their inaugural series event. This PDRA Spring Open National Event will be held at Rockingham Dragway in Rockingham, N.C. April 3-6. This locale is rather fitting since Rockingham Dragway has been home to many history-making moments over the life of professional eighth mile drag racing. Rockingham Dragway was home to the site of the first ADRL ticket giveaway promotion at the storied Dragstock event. This marketing tactic, although initially scorned by many, proved to be highly successful. Building upon the strengths developed over the last decade of professional eighth mile racing, the PDRA is also utilizing free ticket drives to promote their brand new series. Extreme Pro Stock Team Aruba has been dedicated to their eighth mile series since a Pro Stock class came available. Now, latching on to the 'by racers, for racers' approach of the PDRA, Team Aruba is increasing their commitment and involvement in helping this newborn organization succeed.

hails from their namesake country, their race shop is based out of Union, S.C., which makes the Spring Open their home stop on the PDRA tour. To help get the word out about this historical event, Team Aruba has partnered with the Union County Chamber to distribute 10,000 of the free event tickets.

"The Rockingham race is the easiest race for folks from our U.S. home base to attend," told team owner Ven Eman. "We hope that by distributing the PDRA's free tickets in Union and the surrounding areas, our local fans will come see us race. It's an excellent opportunity to be part of history in the making at the first-ever PDRA race."

"We are glad that the PDRA has continued the free ticket distribution," added Eman. "When this technique has been used in the past, the stands are full. Team Aruba is going to do everything in our efforts to make sure that's the case for the Spring Open. Tickets are available to fans everywhere - even Aruba!"


Tickets are available in most stores in the town of Union and also through the Union County Chamber of Commerce and its members.

Keep up with Team Aruba on Facebook and Twitter.

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Dutch PM 'disgusted' by Wilders rap video execution

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said yesterday he was "disgusted" by a music video depicting a jihadist-style execution of controversial anti-Islam politician Geert Wilders.

The video, posted on YouTube by Dutch-Lebanese rapper Hozny, comes days after the outspoken Wilders said that the city of The Hague "could do with less Moroccans."

Rutte, whose center-right VVD party competes with Wilders' PVV for votes, told the NOS public broadcaster that the video was "revolting, dreadful."

"Words fail me when some kind of idiot posts videos like these. We are an open democracy and Geert Wilders... should be able to do his job openly," Rutte said.

In the video, entitled "Geertje", a derogatory diminutive of Wilders' first name, a wigged actor depicting the platinum-haired politician is abducted by two masked gunmen.

At the end of the clip for the song -- which tells the story of Wilders' political career and his comments about Islam -- masked gunmen force the actor to kneel in front of a camera with a green sheet in the background as seen in many abduction videos in the Middle East. A shot is heard as the video fades out.

Performing in Dutch, the rapper sings he's not doing "it" for himself, but for the "girls wearing headscarves" and "the young men looking for work

and bread."

"Geertje, Islam consists of 2.1 billion (people)... nothing will help if they come to get you... expect it with your hateful stories," Hozny raps.

Wilders, who is often reviled among immigrant communities for his fiery anti-Islamist rhetoric, has in the past compared the Koran to Hitler's Mein Kampf and calls Islam a fascist religion.

The last two weeks again saw the politician campaign on an anti-Islam program in two Dutch cities where his Party for Freedom (PVV) are contesting today's local government elections.

Wilders, who has been under 24-hour police protection for several years, said he would lodge a complaint with police over the video, which he said was an incitement to violence.

In 2008, Wilders released a documentary film called "Fitna" which depicted the 2001 and 2004 attacks on New York and Madrid interspersed with phrases from the Koran. The film drew fury in Muslim countries.

In 2011 he was acquitted on hate speech charges by a Dutch court, after being accused of spreading racial animosity and discrimination against Muslims.

Some observers said this week that Wilders may have overstepped the mark with his comment about Moroccans, apparently targeting a specific ethnic group, and rights groups have said they will file complaints.

Putin defies West with Crimea 'land grab'

Continued from page 1

At the same time the pro-Kremlin authorities reported that a member of their own forces had also been killed in the same incident.

Interim Ukraine President Oleksandr Turchynov accused the country's former masters in Moscow of acting like "Nazi Germany" as his prime minister declared the conflict with Russia was now at a "military stage".

The West, which backs the new leaders in Kiev who took power after last month's ousting of pro-Kremlin president Viktor Yanukovich, condemned Moscow's actions as a blatant annexation of Crimea.

US Vice President Joe Biden bluntly accused Russia of a "land grab" and Secretary of State John Kerry warned Moscow against any incursion into eastern Ukraine.

Putin signed the treaty with Crimean prime minister Sergei Aksyonov after over 97 percent of Crimeans voted in favour of joining Russia in a disputed referendum on Sunday.

Russian lawmakers, who still have to ratify the treaty although it comes into force immediately, broke into raucous applause after the signing.

"The Republic of Crimea is considered to be part of Russia from the date of the signing of

the treaty," the Kremlin said.

Crimea and the city of Sevastopol -- the home of the Russian Black Sea fleet which has special status -- are being incorporated as new constituent parts of the Russian Federation.

The signing came after Putin gave a fiery address seeking to justify the incorporation of Crimea into Russia.

His defiant speech referred to Crimea's tumultuous history and brushed off US and EU sanctions touted as the most severe against Moscow since the end of Cold War.

"In the hearts and minds of people, Crimea has always been and remains an inseparable part of Russia," Putin said.

Putin slammed the Soviet-era decision by Nikita Khrushchev to gift the peninsula to the Ukrainian Soviet republic as riddled with "violations".

"When Crimea suddenly ended up being in another state, Russia felt it was not simply robbed --- it was plundered," he said adding that Russia was tired of being pushed into a corner and that it had been repeatedly deceived by the West.

"On the Ukraine the West crossed a line," he said, warning it against provoking Russia.

But he sought to play down fears that Russia was seeking to

grab parts of eastern and southern Ukraine, whose Russian-speaking population is far from supportive of the new authorities in the Ukraine.

It is the first time since World War II that Moscow has expanded its borders and represents the most radical redrawing of the map of Europe since Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence from Serbia.

The move has been immensely popular among Russians and over 100,000 people turned out for a patriotic rally attended by Putin outside the Kremlin late yesterday.

Thousands of Ukrainian troops have been left marooned in bases in Crimea and it remains unclear how their fate will be resolved with the region now under full Russian control.

The decision by the European Union and the United States Monday to slap asset freezes and visa bans on Russian officials and Ukrainian figures involved in the Crimea referendum seemed to cause little alarm in Moscow.

Putin's aide Vladislav Surkov likened the sanctions against him to a "political Oscar... for best supporting actor".

But Western leaders warned a tougher response to the annexation of Crimea could still yet come.

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Rights group: Attacks on journalists soar in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Attacks against journalists and news organizations soared by 59 percent in Mexico last year, with 330 cases reported for the most violent year since 2007, a media rights group said Tuesday.

The London-based Article 19 organization said the media face an act of aggression every 26.5 hours in Mexico.

The number of attacks against journalists, media workers and facilities of news organizations rose from 207 in 2012 to 330 in 2013. Nearly 90 percent of the attacks were against individuals.

Article 19 said public officials were behind six in 10 attacks.

The report came after a weekend break-in at the house of the media rights group's director for Mexico and Central America, Dario Ramirez, whose computer and documents were stolen.

Article 19 said 2013 was the most violent for journalists since drug-related violence began to rise in 2007, when then president Felipe Calderon launched a military crackdown against organized crime.

President Enrique Pena Nieto, who took office in December 2012, has vowed to combat crime against journalists, but attacks rose during his first full year in office.

Mexico has become one of the most dangerous places for journalists, with 87 media workers killed since 2000. Most of the crimes remain unsolved.

Haiti elections set for October after accord


PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) - Haiti will hold legislative elections on October 26 after an agreement brokered by the country's Catholic Church ended a long-running political impasse, it was confirmed yesterday.

The agreement, reached after mediation from Cardinal Chibly Langlois, provides for the election of 20 senators and around 100 members of parliament and local councilors.

The municipal elections had been due to be held in 2011, while the senate vote had been set for 2012, but both have been delayed because of political squabbling.

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Ex-Colombia rebel admits kidnapping Americans

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A former commander of Colombia's FARC rebels faces up to 60 years in prison after pleading guilty yesterday to charges stemming from the kidnapping of three US citizens in 2003, US justice officials said.

Alexander Beltran Herrera, 37, admitted three counts of hostage-taking during an appearance in federal court in Washington following his extradition to the United States in 2012.

Beltran Herrera had been a member and commander in

FARC, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, during a 15-year spell with the group between 1994 and 2009.

He will be sentenced on July 25 in Washington, a statement said.

John Carlin, acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's National Security Division, said Beltran Herrera had admitted involvement in the kidnapping of Marc Gonsalves, Thomas Howes, and Keith Stansell.

The three men, who had been working for a US defense

contractor on a drug surveillance mission, were taken hostage after their small plane crashed in the Colombian jungle in February 2003.

They were held for more than five years by FARC, which Washington has designated as a foreign "terrorist" organization.

Two other men on board the plane when it crashed were executed by FARC rebels after the accident.

Tuesday's statement said FARC jailers used "choke harnesses, chains, padlocks and

wires" to restrain the hostages during their captivity.

They were eventually rescued after a raid by Colombian forces in 2008, which also led to the release of French-Colombian hostage Ingrid Betancourt.

"This case underscores our resolve to hold accountable those who target our citizens with violence anywhere in the world," Carlin said.

The FARC have been fighting successive governments since the 1960s and are Latin America's oldest insurgency.

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Heart attacks misdiagnosed as anxiety in women: study

OTTAWA (AFP) - Women are more likely to die of heart attacks because their symptoms are often misdiagnosed as anxiety so they do not get vital swift treatment, said a study Monday.

Researchers at McGill University in Montreal set out to understand sex differences in mortality rates for men and women with acute coronary syndrome.

They asked 1,123 patients aged 18 to 55 to fill out a survey after being admitted to one of 24 hospitals in Canada, one in the United States and one in Switzerland.

The women in the study, the researchers found, generally came from lower income brackets, were more likely to have diabetes, high blood pressure and a family history of heart disease.

They also had substantially higher levels of anxiety and depression than the men.

The researchers noted that the men received faster access to electrocardiograms (ECGs) to check heart rhythms and fibrinolysis to

prevent blood clots than the women.

Early treatment for a heart attack can prevent or limit damage to the heart muscle, while saving the person's life.

On average it took 15 minutes and 28 minutes, respectively, for men to be given ECGs or fibrinolysis from the time they arrived at an emergency room.

In contrast, it took 21 minutes and 36 minutes for women.

The researchers pointed to the women's higher levels of anxiety as the primary reason for the discrepancy.

"Patients with anxiety who present to the emergency department with non-cardiac chest pain tend to be women, and the prevalence of acute coronary syndrome is lower among young women than among young men," said lead researcher Louise Pilote.

"These findings suggest that triage personnel might initially dismiss a cardiac event among young women with anxiety, which would result in a longer door-to-ECG interval."

China halves TB rate in 20 years: Lancet

PARIS (AFP) - China has more than halved its tuberculosis rate in 20 years by scaling up steps to ensure patients take their antibiotics, The Lancet reported Tuesday. The tally of new infections fell from 170 people per 100,000 of the population in 1990 to 59 per 100,000 in 2010 -- a target reached five years ahead of schedule.

A study attributes the success to China broadening access to a treatment called DOTS (for directly observed therapy, short-course) which entails healthworkers meticulously supervising patients until they complete a course of antibiotics to kill the TB germ.

The microbe can thrive if a patient stops taking the drug too early, leaving behind a small colony of germs that can become antibiotic resistant and be transmitted to other people.

During the 1990s, the DOTS programme expanded rapidly in China, from covering half of its population to all of it by 2000.

Toshiba unveils disease-detecting breathalyser



TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's Toshiba on Tuesday unveiled a breathalyser which it says can detect a wide range of diseases just 30 seconds after users blow into the machine.

The device, about the size of a small dishwasher, has a nozzle in which users blow several times.

It then analyses the puffs for traces of several gases which can signal the presence of several health problems including diabetes, stomach ailments and even the ordinary hangover.

"A breath exhaled into the machine is irradiated with an infrared laser, and then trace gases are detected" the company said in a statement.

The gases include acetaldehyde, methane and acetone, all of which can point to the presence of various health problems.

Toshiba said it would expand the number of gases -- and diseases -- that its machine can detect, with an eye to starting commercial production next year.

The healthcare segment is a key unit for Toshiba, which is best known for its consumer electronics.



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Stones postpone tour after L'Wren Scott death



NEW YORK (AFP) - The Rolling Stones on Tuesday postponed indefinitely their tour of Australia and New Zealand with frontman Mick Jagger plunged into grief over the apparent suicide of girlfriend L'Wren Scott.

Jagger, who was reportedly heading back to New York, said he was "struggling to understand" Scott's death as it emerged her fashion design business was grappling with multi-million-dollar debts.

"The Rolling Stones are deeply sorry and disappointed to announce the postponement of the rest of their 14 ON FIRE tour of Australia and New Zealand," they wrote on their website.

"Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and Ronnie Wood wish to thank all of their fans for their support at this difficult time and hope that they will fully understand the reason for this announcement," it added.

The band said they would reschedule concerts in Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Auckland at a later date, asking ticket holders to hold on to their tickets until further notice.

Jagger initially cancelled just the opening leg of the Australian tour, which was to

have begun in Perth on Wednesday.

In a blog post on his website, a day after 49-year-old Scott was found dead at her luxury New York apartment, he described the former model as not only his lover but his best friend.

"I will never forget her," Jagger, 70, wrote under a post entitled "L'Wren", featuring a black and white photo of Scott.

"I am still struggling to understand how my lover and best friend could end her life in this tragic way," Jagger wrote.

"We spent many wonderful years together and had made a great life for ourselves. She had great presence and her talent was much admired, not least by me.

Scott and Jagger, who was 21 years older, had been dating for well over a decade.

The elegant six-foot, four-inch (1.93m) designer was found hanging by a scarf at her Chelsea apartment in Manhattan on Monday, according to police.

Police sources indicated that they had not found a note or letter near her body.

It emerged that Scott's business had large debts at the time of her apparent suicide according to latest accounts filed in Britain.

LS Fashion Ltd ran a loss of 4.2 million euros (\$5.9 million) as of December 31, 2012, said the accounts lodged with Britain's Companies House last October and obtained by AFP.

Rapper Chris Brown ordered to remain in custody

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A US judge ordered US rapper Chris Brown on Monday to remain behind bars for allegedly breaching his probation stemming from his notorious 2009 assault of then-girlfriend Rihanna.

The 24-year-old, arrested Friday after being booted out of a rehab facility in Malibu, will have to stay in custody until a probation violation hearing on April 23.

Judge James Brandlin said he found it troubling that Brown had told a group therapy session there: "I am good at using guns and knives," prompting his ejection from the center for drug and anger management.

Brown also violated the center's internal rules by "touching elbows or standing very close to a female client."

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NSA can retrieve, replay phone calls: report

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The National Security Agency has technology capable of recording all the phone calls of an entire country and replaying them later, a report based on leaked documents said Tuesday.

The Washington Post, citing documents leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, said the technology functions like a time machine by being able to reach into the past.

The report said the NSA can collect 100 percent of the calls of a target country and reach as far back as one month with the tools called MYSTIC and RETRO.

The leaked documents say the tools can "retrieve audio of interest that was not tasked at the time of the original call."

The Post said that at the request of US officials, it withheld details that could be used to identify the country

where the system is being used or other countries where it may be used in the future.

If accurate, the program would be more powerful than any other NSA program by allowing the spy agency to tap into the entire network from a country.

The National Security Agency would neither confirm or deny the report but said in a statement that its electronic spying was not "arbitrary."

Antarctic moss returns to life after 1,500 years frozen

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Moss that was frozen for 1,500 years beneath an ice sheet in Antarctica has been brought back to life, marking the longest life span for any known plant, researchers said Monday.

The study in Current Biology describes the first time moss has been shown to survive for such an extended period of time.

Previously, moss was known to be revivable after 20 years. And bacteria is the only other life form that is known to survive after thousands, even millions of years.

"This experiment shows

that multi-cellular organisms, plants in this case, can survive over far longer timescales than previously thought. These mosses, a key part of the ecosystem, could survive century to millennial periods of ice advance, such as the Little Ice Age in Europe," said co-author Peter Convey from the British Antarctic Survey.

"Although it would be a big jump from the current finding, this does raise the possibility of complex life forms surviving even longer periods once encased in permafrost or ice," said Convey.

3,200-year-old skeleton found with cancer

LONDON (AFP) - Archaeologists have found the 3,200-year-old skeleton of a man with a spreading form of cancer, the oldest example so far of a disease often associated with modern lifestyles, scientists said Monday.

The remains of a man believed to be aged between 25 and 35 were found last year in a tomb in Sudan on the banks of the River Nile by a student at Durham University in northeast England.

"This may help us to understand the almost unknown history of the disease, said Michaela Binder, the researcher who found the skeleton.

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Germany's top court clears euro bailout fund



KARLSRUHE, Germany -- AFPphoto shows judges of the Second Senate of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany (L-R) Sibylle Kessal-Wulf, Monika Hermanns, Michael Gerhardt, Peter Huber, Andreas Vosskuhle (chairman), Gertrude Luebbe-Wolff, Herbert Landau and Peter Mueller arriving for the proclamation of their decision on objections by eurosceptics against the Euro-

pean bailout fund (ESM) on March 18, 2014 in Karlsruhe, southern Germany. Germany's highest court ruled that the European bailout fund, the ESM, is in line with the country's constitution. Confirming a preliminary ruling dating from September 2012, the Federal Constitutional Court said it saw no obstacles to Germany taking part in the 500-billion-euro (\$696-

billion) European Stability Mechanism, set up to bail out troubled countries and their banks.

Since the eurozone turmoil began in 2010, eurosceptics have repeatedly asked the Constitutional Court in the southwestern city of Karlsruhe to rule on whether new EU crisis-fighting tools comply with Germany's constitution.

Germany's share of the ESM bailout fund amounts to 190 billion euros, more than that of any other country. Germany was one of the last countries in the region to ratify the rescue fund, in late 2012.

Yellen pressured to clarify Fed rate signals

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Janet Yellen opens her first monetary policy meeting as Federal Reserve chair yesterday amid pressure to clear up questions about the Fed's plans for hiking its base interest rate.



from the 6.5 percent jobless rate it set out more than a year ago as a threshold for when it needs to begin tightening policy. At the same time, the Fed has to be sure that weather has been behind the slowdown in the economy over the last three months.

The Federal Open Market Committee is not expected to move off its current course of steadily tapering its stimulus program in the two-day meeting in Washington.

And it will not begin raising the short-term fed funds rate from its bottom-level 0-0.25 percent, where it has been since late 2008.

But with the official unemployment rate having fallen faster than expected, and Yellen still believing that the jobs market remains weak, the FOMC needs to distance itself

Also demanding extreme caution is the crisis over the Ukraine.

"The fallout appears minimal so far, but geopolitical tensions are high," said Jim O'Sullivan, chief US economist at High Frequency Economics. "The crisis could spill over to the US economy through financial contagion and confidence effects."

Yellen has pledged continuity from the policies of Ben Bernanke, whom she replaced as Fed chair on February 1



BEIJING : A deliveryman pushes a box past a clothing store at the Wangfujing shopping street in Beijing on March 18, 2014. China's yuan weakened against the dollar after the central bank doubled the trading band for the currency, which the United States has long insisted is undervalued. (AFP PHOTO)

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

P	E	R	P	I	E	A	L	M	S
A	L	E	C	A	N	N	R	O	A
R	I	P	E	S	A	G	N	O	T
		R	E	T	R	B	I		
C	O	H	E	R	E	A	B	E	T
A	L	I	A	S	T	V	S	W	I
G	I	R	L	H	E	E	N	I	L
E	V	E	L	A	T	P	E	C	A
E	D	G	E	R	F	E	W	E	S
		N	E	B	O	N	T		
L	I	M	A	O	W	N	O	H	N
P	I	P	S	R	E	D	N	A	N
S	I	G	H	S	S	A	G	E	R



KABUL : An Afghan construction worker makes concrete tubes on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan. Afghanistan's economy has improved significantly since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, but despite international assistance the country needs to overcome challenges including low revenue collection and job creation, corruption, weak government capacity and poor public infrastructure. (AFP PHOTO)

COMICS

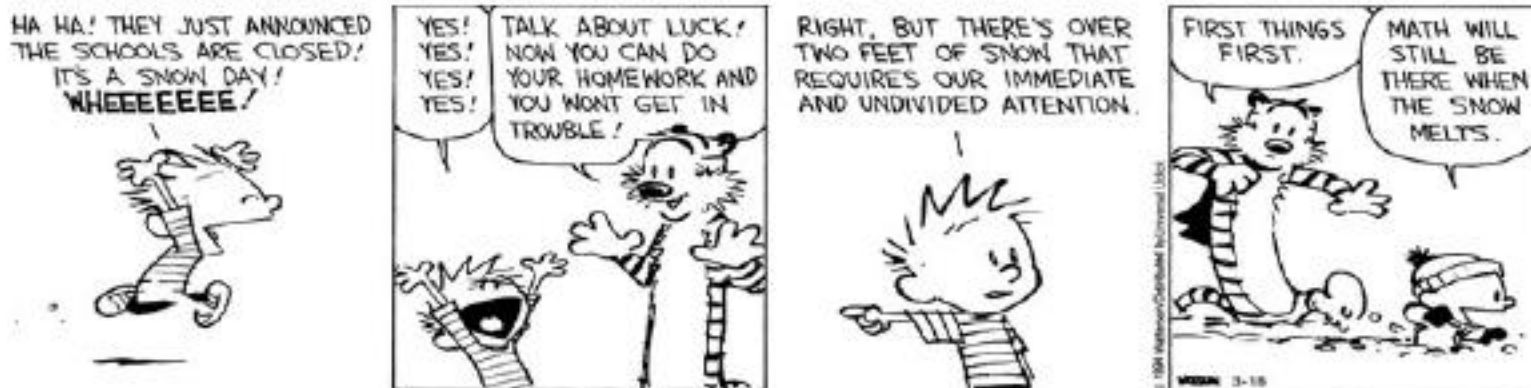
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



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1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
12				13							14		
15				16							17		
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43	44					45	46					47	
48						49						50	
51						52						53	

ACROSS

- "Veep" channel (abbr.)
- Performer
- Cooking spray brand
- Snaky swimmer
- "Hey ___"
- Larver of "Heroes"
- Norma or Charlotte
- Fork prongs
- Critic Reed
- Grain measures
- Computer co. inits.
- "___ was saying..." (2 wds.)
- Assents
- Aroma
- Winter apple
- Suspended
- Easter entrée
- Cape Canaveral org.
- Deterioration, as of the shoreline
- Baxter and Boleyn
- High-___

- Business degree (abbr.)
- Speed rate (abbr.)
- Showy flowers
- Zodiac lion
- Academy ___
- "See ya!"
- Promissory note
- Soup dipper
- Memorable time
- They come after ems
- Road bends
- Address book abbr.
- Gentleman caller
- Spanish shouts
- Swear (to)
- Tex-Mex dish
- Perfect ratings
- Copper source
- Quit
- Type of cheese
- Tankard filter
- Blend
- Puts the receiver down (2 wds.)
- Walter of "The Real McCoys"
- Marksman's expertise
- Soothe
- Pampering
- places
- Females
- Succinct
- Jumbo
- Lacking rosy cheeks
- Glutton
- Breathe in
- Homes
- Actress Oberon
- Cushions
- "Oh, sure!" (2 wds.)
- Brontë's "Jane ___"
- Performing mammal
- Fabrication
- Very long time
- Existed

DOWN

- Parsley or rosemary



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Sudoku

		9		4	6			
	3		1		7			
8							2	7
	9	4	8				5	
2								4
		7			4	6	9	
9	6							3
			9		1		7	
			4	6		8		

SOLUTION

6	5	8	0	9	4	1	2	7
9	2	1	9	6	8	7	0	6
6	4	1	8	2	2	9	0	8
2	0	9	7	8	9	2	8	1
7	8	2	6	1	0	6	5	2
1	6	5	2	2	8	7	6	9
2	2	7	0	6	6	0	1	8
9	9	6	2	0	1	2	6	4
8	1	6	9	4	2	6	2	0

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the ac-



tion, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba con-

tributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area also to house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great

demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's



Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Lusie's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generation. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

queensaruba.com/.

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare. so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining. telf. 5860606.

US college basketball fans gripped by March Madness

EMMITSBURG (AFP) - Over the next three weeks, a peculiar syndrome will sweep over the United States, sending Americans into a collective tizzy as they ditch work, lay bets and obsess over something called "brackets."

Welcome to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division One Men's Basketball Championship, better known as March Madness for the way it seizes the nation's attention for the better part of a month.

Sixty-eight teams are vying for glory. On April 7, one will take the coveted NCAA title in Texas. And some of the stars of college basketball will quickly make their way to the professional ranks.

In the run-up to the final, millions of American sports fans will be glued to their TV screens and mobile devices, rooting for their alma maters. Some will bet big money, on the well-funded traditional powerhouse teams and the would-be Cinderellas looking to make a splash.

One such underdog is Mount Saint Mary's, a small Catholic university of just 2,200 students located in rural Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The Mountaineers are hoping to be the first 16th



seeded team in NCAA history to win a game -- on Tuesday in a preliminary "play-in" game against the State University of New York at Albany.

A win would send Mount Saint Mary's to the tournament's main draw, and a clash with the University of Florida Gators, a number one seed and two-time NCAA champions.

"There are going to be some major upsets, and that's what people love about it," Mountaineers coach Jamion Christian, 31, told AFP, explaining the tournament's massive appeal.

"March Madness basically says that an ordinary guy, for one night, can be as good as any team in the country. It's the American dream -- being able to pick yourself up by the bootstraps and work yourself up to the top."

- Science of 'bracketology' -

Central to the March Madness insanity is the bracket -- a multi-pronged diagram with the names of each team as they progress to the finals.

Guessing which team will go forward is a national obsession -- known as "bracketology" -- as an estimated \$12 billion changes hands in office and online pools, according to business magazine Forbes.

This year, billionaire Warren Buffett, the nation's best-known investor, and loan provider Quicken have teamed up to offer \$1 billion to whoever correctly predicts every outcome right up to the NCAA final.

The odds of doing that successfully are put at nine quintillion to one -- that's nine followed by 18 zeros -- and the prize money is to be paid out in 40 annual payments of \$25 million, or a one-time lump sum of \$500 million.

"We really pay no attention to that," said NCAA

tournament chairman Ron Wellman when asked about the Buffett bracket. "We have other things that we need to tend to at this point."

One of the most-watched brackets comes from President Barack Obama, a well-known basketball fan and recreational player who posts his projections on the White House website.

- Playing hoops hooky -

So popular is March Madness that outplacement firm Challenger Gray and Christmas estimates companies could lose a whopping \$1.2 billion for every unproductive work hour during the first week of the tournament.

"While March Madness distractions may not alter the nation's quarterly GDP numbers, you can be assured that department managers and network administrators notice the effect on work output and company-wide Internet speeds," said the firm's CEO John A. Challenger.

Most however need not worry about being fired: a survey by OfficeTeam, another job placement firm, found that 20 percent of managers deem March Madness

to be good for staff morale, labor lawyers Mintz Levin reported on its blog.

"The real reason why people like March Madness so much is because it gives them an opportunity not to have to work," said John D'Argenio, athletics director at Siena College in New York state, which last participated in 2010.

Some fans just skip work altogether, feigning sickness to convene in bars with friends or stay at home to watch the action.

March Madness certainly is big business. CBS and Time Warner are paying \$10.8 billion for the rights to telecast every game until 2024. Some of that money goes back to the universities.

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Pistorius defence team challenges police photos

PRETORIA (AFP) - Oscar Pistorius's defence team picked through the testimony of a police photographer on Tuesday who took images of the bloodied crime scene where the Paralympian shot dead his girlfriend.

The court was shown graphic photographs of a bloody cricket bat and bathroom floor and the 9mm pistol used to shoot Reeva Steenkamp, with the athlete later weeping during testimony by a ballistics expert.

Defence lawyer Barry Roux said police photographer Bennie van Staden caused a "great disturbance" by moving evidence and suggested police testimony contained suspicious timing inconsistencies.

Van Staden, who was visibly tiring under Roux's torrent of questions, said he always

took pictures of an original crime scene, but that he moved bloodied towels and a duvet in order to check for more evidence.

Roux argued that bangles by police had tainted the scene to such an extent that the evidence could not be used.


The defence insists these changes make it difficult to prove the sequence of events in the early morning hours of Valentine's Day last year.

"How does it happen there was such great disturbance in that scene?" Roux asked about the pictures in the hopes of discrediting the witness.

The lawyer also claimed data on the photos suggested a "great overlap" in when photographers documented the scene, contradicting testimony that they worked at different times.

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Former FIFA boss paid millions by Qataris - report

LONDON (AFP) - A former senior official of FIFA and his family were paid almost \$2 million (£1.2m) from a Qatari firm linked to the Gulf state's successful bid for the 2022

World Cup finals, according to a report in Tuesday's edition of Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper.

The Telegraph said Jack Warner, the former vice-president of FIFA, appeared to have been personally paid \$1.2 million (£720,000) from a company controlled by a former Qatari official shortly after the controversial decision to award the country the tournament.

Payments totalling almost \$750,000 (£450,000) were made to Warner's sons, according to documents seen by the Telegraph. A further \$400,000 (£240,000) was paid to one of his employees.

The Telegraph also said a company owned by Mohamed Bin Hammam, the then FIFA executive member for Qatar, appeared to pay \$1.2 million (£720,000) to Warner in 2011.

Bin Hammam, who launched an abortive challenge against incumbent FIFA president Sepp Blatter, resigned from his FIFA and Asian Football Confederation posts in 2012, shortly before was banned for life from football administration by the global governing body's ethics committee.

However, FIFA was non-committal regarding the Telegraph's report on Tuesday, saying in a statement: "FIFA has no comment to make on this matter."

Warner was one of the most experienced members of the executive committee until he stood down in 2011 and served as vice-president of FIFA for 14 years.

He was one of the 22 people who decided to award Russia the 2018 World Cup and Qatar the 2022 tournament.



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Sao Paulo says will deliver Cup stadium for April

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Sao Paulo's delayed Corinthians Arena stadium, due to host the opening match at the World Cup, will be delivered to organisers on April 15, albeit with final touches still required, an official said Tuesday.

"The site will be delivered on April 15 with only a few issues to finish off thereafter," a spokesperson for Andres Sanchez, former Corinthians chairman and site construction supervisor, told AFP.

"What FIFA has asked for will be finished," the spokesperson said, without giving details of what further tweaks would be needed at the 68,000-seat venue before it hosts Brazil's game with Croatia on June 12.

Last weekend, the ground, which will be home to six games in all, including one semi-final, hosted its first training session.

Earlier, Folha de Sao Paulo had reported the stadium would be delivered with an incomplete roof and without giant screens.

Corinthians have put the delays down to difficulties with securing \$150 million in loans from state investment bank BNDES, as well as repairs needed after a November accident which cost the lives of two construction workers.

UEFA chairman and World Cup organizing committee member Michel Platini earlier indicated in Zurich that the stadium was the main remaining cause for concern.

"There are question marks over the number of seats. FIFA wants to know exactly how many there will be," Platini said.

"There are also complementary structures which nobody wants to pay for," Platini indicated, alluding to temporary installations. Constructor Odebrecht, Sao Paulo city hall and the regional government are seeking to thrash out an agreement on the issue.

But Platini noted Brazil was not the only host to race against the clock ahead of a World Cup.

"In Italy (ahead of the 1990 finals) you saw people applying the last touch of paint to stadiums just before the event started," he recalled.

Two other venues, Cuiaba and Curitiba, have yet to be finished and Porto Alegre, although inaugurated, still has temporary installations to complete.

Knicks counting on Jackson to revive fortunes

NEW YORK (AFP) - Phil Jackson, who coached a record 11 NBA championship teams, has agreed to return to the struggling New York Knicks, the National Basketball Association team announced on Tuesday.

The former Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers coach was introduced as the president of basketball operations of the beleaguered NBA team at a news conference.

"I am going to jump in with both feet," Jackson said.

"We want to build a team. This is the best place to play basketball."

Jackson will be trying to recreate the magic he was part of with the Knicks in the 1970s.

Jackson, who played for the Knicks from 1967-1978, has been put in charge of all basketball decisions for the Knicks. He helped the Knicks win their most recent NBA crown in 1973.

"We are looking forward to embracing the past but also looking forward," said Jack-

son. "To come back to the place where I started in basketball is a great feeling."

The 68-year-old Jackson retired from coaching in May 2011 after leading the Chicago Bulls to six crowns in the 1990s and then Los Angeles Lakers to five titles. His last title came in 2010 with Los Angeles.

Jackson won 11 NBA titles as a coach, surpassing the previous record of nine set by Red Auerbach. He also has a .704 career winning percentage, the highest of any NBA

coach.

The Knicks are in the midst of a disappointing season.

Despite boasting one of the top scorers in the NBA, Carmelo Anthony, the Knicks are 27-40 -- four games behind the Atlanta Hawks for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Knicks are hoping the hiring of Jackson improves the chances they might keep Anthony, who is looking at free agency after this season.